

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

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JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

AGENTS FOR THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL,
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1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE is published every Thursday. It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairy-men, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication in Canada.
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recent years been absorbing large and steadily increasing quantities, notably in the West, which is not producing pork in ratio with its consumption. Taking all things into consideration, it is doubtful whether the Canadian pork-packer has very much either to gain or lose by an increase in the duty on pork, and, indeed, there are not a few who question whether the Canadian farmer would be much profited, except, perhaps, to a slight extent, at certain seasons, and on certain of the cheaper grades. The fact that we have an expanding home market and an unlimited outlet in Britain for fancy Wiltshire sides would seem to indicate that the inroads of American pork have not assumed, and are not likely to assume, any devastating proportions, or have any serious effect in depressing values. There are, moreover, two very important principles that must be borne in mind: First, the interest of the consumer must not be sacrificed; secondly, every time any section of the agricultural community ask for increased protection, it affords a handle to the manufacturers, who, as we know by experience, are only too ready to ask for higher tariff on their already over-protected lines of goods. It is generally conceded that, in the main, the agricultural community stands to suffer far more than it can possibly gain through a high protective policy, and for this reason it behooves us to forego trifling advantages, rather than lend our voice too readily to the appeal for higher protection. The tariff on American pork, if reduced to an ad valorem basis, is almost equal to the tariff on agricultural implements. We see no reason why it should not remain as it is. There are good arguments for an increase in the duty on pork, but there are also strong contra reasons. Balancing all considerations, is it worth while disturbing the existing status?

The Wallaceburg Sugar Co. has purchased, for a consideration of \$230,000, the plant of the Ontario Sugar Co., at Berlin, Ont., which cost about \$600,000 to start, and which was wound up recently under an order of the courts. The new proprietors intend to develop the business at Berlin somewhat on the same lines as at Wallaceburg, and feel confident that, with the hearty co-operation of the farmers there, they will meet with similar success, and that the business will be mutually beneficial.

Appeal to Youth.

[From an address by Prof. L. H. Bailey, New York State College of Agriculture, on "The Lessons of the Day."]

Young men and women, I have something to say to you. I hope that I am speaking to some young person who has the love of the open country in his heart, and who looks out to usefulness in the world. The opportunities in that farming country are more numerous than the men on the farms that you find there. Every question that is asked by a farmer suggests a subject for inquiry, and we all wait for the solution. Take hold of something because you feel that it will help your fellow man or woman. Do not be afraid to see visions. The man who never had a vision is dead. No person should enter into service for the purpose of developing leadership; he should serve for the sake of the service. Leadership is a result of good service, and will come as a natural consequence. Whatever the problem, and no matter how small it may seem to you, if you solve it, greater things will come to you. The opportunities will be measured only by your ability to see them and to handle them. Most of us are so blind that we never see the opportunity that lies directly before us. I bid you, then, go back into the rural country, fully inspired with the idea that great opportunity for service awaits you. Here is a new thing in the world, and a new opportunity for usefulness.

I am convinced that the opportunity for personal development is now as great in the open country as in any other direction. Every man or woman on the land who makes a real success at farming and at living is a marked person. He is not buried in the mere multitude. The good, new things that need doing are so many that I do not see how a man can escape them.

Above all, old and young, we must never lose faith in the soil. It is the source and condition of our existence. It never grows stale, and it never wears out. The earth is always young.

The fields were parched with summer heat,
The life and green from swamps had fled,
The dry grass crunched beneath the feet,
And August leaves dropped stiff and dead.

Then light south winds 'cross wood and shore
Brought cooling clouds and slow, sweet rain;
And hills and crops were new once more,
And grasses greened as marsh and plain.

So swift the magic sent its spell
Thro' burning corn and pastures dumb,
'Twas clear the world had rested well—
Against the time when rain should come.

So virile is this earth we own,
So quick with life its soil is stung,
A million years have come and flown,
And still it rises green and young.

Illustration Farms.

Numerous and varied have been the schemes for the advancement of Canadian agriculture conceived in the fertile brain of Dr. Jas. W. Robertson, Principal of Macdonald College, who now proposes a system of illustration farms, say, five in each Province, each farm with a specialty, as well as with good general agriculture. Financial assistance to the extent of \$1,000 might be advanced to the owner under an advisory committee, in consideration of which he would undertake to carry on his farming according to the counsel and plans of the committee, and let visiting farmers observe and learn, also preparing an annual report for publication. For such service, \$200 of the loan might be written off annually.

Except in work of research, and for instruction of students, the operations of agriculture can be carried on most economically by those who follow it for what they can make out of it. But these men, says Dr. Robertson, can be helped by expert counsel and supervision, and perhaps by a little money, to give fine illustrations of what

may be done when the counsel of highly-trained experts, the knowledge of local conditions, and energy with enthusiasm are united to render definite public service. With illustrations of the occupation at its best, of the rural home at its best, and the rural school at its best for the children, we should be in a fair way to make real progress, worthy of our heritage and of our obligations."

The foregoing plan, like many others, has points to commend it, though its practical working-out will require rare judgment, enthusiasm and tact. It would seem a fitting idea for the Macdonald-Robertson combination of resources and talent.

Luxuries of the Farm.

The farmer who envies the town or city man, and fancies that he makes an easier living, and lives better, enjoys more luxuries, etc., than the farmer, should stop and do a little thinking before he allows himself to get away with that idea. First, what is the average town or city man's annual income? Not as large as most people fancy, perhaps. And what about his expenses? What does it cost to live in a house as good as the average farmer lives in? What of cost of fuel, water, light, and the taxes he has to pay? True, he has advantages in the way of conveniences—he is close to the best educational institutions; he has the chance, if his means permit, of enjoying some high-class entertainments. But, as an offset to these, his young, growing family is exposed to the many temptations and dangers that beset the young in city life. And what about his living? He usually has to pay the highest retail price for everything, and often for goods of a very inferior quality. As the saying is, he "gets it in the neck" when he buys good sweet milk and cream, and, although he pays the highest price for butter and eggs, the butter is quite likely to be off-flavor, and the eggs, many of them stale. His fruit and vegetables are supplied by the green grocer and fruit dealer, and we have seen potatoes of a poor quality retailed at 25 cents a peck, when the very best were worth only 15 cents a bag wholesale; and apples at the same price, 25 cents a peck, that would not grade No. 3. The berries and other fruits that he buys are not always fresh. Many of the basket fruits are picked too green, and lack flavor and finish, while the berries have been picked for some time, have travelled a considerable distance, and have been through the hands of the baggage-smashers on the express cars. And then, he lacks one essential luxury during the warm months—a drink of pure, cold spring water from the old stone well, free from microbes and all bacteria.

And now, how is it with the farmer? To-day, many of the things that formerly made farm life monotonous and uninteresting have passed or are passing away. By means of the rural-telephone lines, the farmer is no longer isolated, but is brought into close touch with neighbors and with city and town. The modern farmhouse, as built now, contains all the comforts and conveniences of a city house, in the way of bath, closets, water supply, etc. In most localities he has the advantage of a daily mail, and can keep in close touch with the news of the world. And, with regard to his living, there is no man in a better position to enjoy the best of everything than the farmer.

The beef-feeding has become an almost universal institution through the rural districts of this country, so that he no longer has to depend on cured and salted meats when away from the route of the butcher's wagon. He has the milk and cream of his own in all its freshness and purity. He can at all times enjoy strictly new-laid eggs; and, with a little extra labor beyond the ordinary farm routine, he can enjoy the very best in the line of fruits and vegetables. But, in many cases, and on many farms, the latter are sadly neglected. And why? Is it owing to rush of work and lack of time, or a disinclination to attempt anything out of the ordinary routine of farm work?

Shirone Co., Ont.

G. C. CASTON.